

## **Remarks**

In response to the non-final Office Action mailed January 27, 2005, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and that the case pass to issue in light of the amendments above and the remarks below. By this paper, the Applicants have respectfully requested amending claims 1, 11, 14, and 18, and canceling claims 9 and 19, such that claims 1-8, 10-18, and 20 are currently pending.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include limitations similar to those previously recited in dependent claim 9. Claim 11 has been amended to remove the recitation of the word "an". Claim 18 has been amended to include limitations similar to those previously recited in dependent claim 19.

Claims 1-5, 8, and 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,052,631 to Busch (hereinafter the Busch patent) in view of USPN 6,505,106 to Lawrence (hereinafter the Lawrence patent). Claims 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Busch patent in view of the Lawrence patent and further in view of USPN 6,826,497 to Collins (hereinafter the Collins patent). Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Busch patent in view of the Lawrence patent and further in view of USPN 6,049,453 to Hulsebosch (hereinafter the Hulsebosch patent). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Busch patent in view of the Lawrence patent and further in view of USPN 6,725,201 to Joao (hereinafter the Joao patent).

Claims 7, 19, and 20 are rejected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

**Rejection of Claims 1-5, 8, 12-18 Under 35  
U.S.C. § 103(a) Over the Busch and Lawrence Patents**

This rejection applies to independent claims 1, 14, and 18. The Applicants respectfully request amending each of these independent claims and assert that the rejections under this section are obviated in light of those amendments. Particularly, independent claim 18 has been amended to include limitations similar to those which were allowed in dependent claim 19 so as to place claim 18 in condition for allowance. Independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include limitations similar to those recited in dependent claim 9. The Examiner has rejected dependent claim 9 under a separate rejection. The Applicants have elected to address the rejection of independent claims 1 and 14 with respect to the rejection of claim 9, which is described below in more detail.

**Rejection of Claims 6 and 9 Under 35 U.S.C. §  
103(a) Over the Busch, Lawrence, and Collins Patents**

As described above, independent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to include limitations similar to those recited in dependent claim 9. The limitations recited in dependent claim 9 are believed to place independent claims 1 and 14 in condition for allowance. In particular, the Examiner rejected claim 9 based on the teachings provided in the Collins patent. The Collins patent, however, cannot be used as valid prior art against the Applicants' application as the Collins patent failed to publish before the filing of the Applicants' application and was commonly owned at the time of the invention thereof. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 14, and dependent claims 2-8, 11-13, and 15-17, which depend therefrom and include all of the limitations thereof, are patentable over the rejection set forth by the Examiner.

**Rejection of Claim 10 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**  
**Over the Busch, Lawrence, and Hulsebosch Patents**

In light of the amendments to independent claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 10 is patentable at least for the same reasons that independent claim 1 from which it depends is patentable.

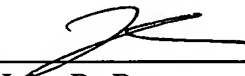
**Rejection of Claim 11 Under 35 U.S.C. §**  
**103(a) Over the Busch, Lawrence, and Joao Patents**

In light of the amendments to independent claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 11, is patentable at least for the same reasons the independent claim 1 from which it depends is patentable.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that each rejection has been fully replied to and traversed and that the case is in condition to pass to issue. The Examiner is kindly thanked for discussing this rejection with the undersigned and is invited to contact the undersigned if further discussions will facilitate passing this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
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